



NOTES

GRAM VARIABLE

GARDNERELLA VAGINALIS (BACTERIAL VAGINOSIS)

osms.it/gardnerella-vaginalis

PATHOLOGY & CAUSES

- Facultative, anaerobic, gram-variable coccobacilli
- Microscopically
 - Very thin gram-positive cell wall appears gram-positive/negative
- Non-spore forming, non-motile
- Causative agent for bacterial vaginosis (BV)
 - Disruption of vaginal microbiome
- Most common vaginal infection in individuals who are biologically female, age 15–44

RISK FACTORS

- Multiple sex partners, douching, smoking

COMPLICATIONS

- ↑ risk of contracting HIV, other STDs
- Acute cervicitis, endometritis, postabortal infection
- During pregnancy
 - Premature birth, low birthweight

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- Malodorous (fishy), thin white/gray vaginal discharge
- Vaginal pain, itching, burning
- Burning with urination

DIAGNOSIS

LAB RESULTS

- Gram-stain smear of vaginal discharge; using criteria (e.g. Nugent, Hay/Ison)
- Affirm VP III
 - Commercial automated DNA probe assay detects *G. vaginalis*
- OSOM BVBlue test
 - Chromogenic identifies presence of elevated sialidase enzyme produced by *G. vaginalis*, other bacteria (e.g. *Bacteroides*, *Prevotella*, *Mobiluncus*)

OTHER DIAGNOSTICS

- Requires three of the following Amsel criteria
 - Characteristic vaginal discharge
 - pH > 4.5
 - Clue cells visible on saline wet mount (vaginal epithelial cells covered with bacteria)
 - Positive whiff-amine test (combine vaginal discharge sample with 10% KOH → fishy odor)

TREATMENT

MEDICATIONS

- **Antibiotics:** metronidazole

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DIAGNOSIS OF BV USING HAY/ISON CRITERIA

GRADE 0	No bacteria present
GRADE 1	Lactobacillus predominate
GRADE 2	Mixed flora: some lactobacilli; gardnerella/mobiluncus also present
GRADE 3	Predominantly gardnerella/mobiluncus; few/no lactobacilli Diagnostic of BV
GRADE 4	Gram-positive cocci predominate